

Western Communities Branch #2700
Minutes of Executive Meeting July 26, 2022

Location: Tammy Welch's house

Present: Al Cocola (chair), Valeska Campbell, Tammy Welch, Colleen Cocola and guest Helen Myers

Meeting came to order at 1:00 pm

Helen Myers was welcomed. Al asked members to introduce themselves.

Membership Report: Valeska noted we now have 77 members. Most are transfers, 4-5 are brand new. There is a 1 new member from Cobble hill and 1 from Mill Bay. Provincial is sending out an email advertising the BCGREA to all pensioners who are not already members. This may attract more people.

Financial Report: From the \$700 startup we received from Provincial, we have spent \$333, leaving a balance of \$366. Tammy has prepared an interim budget based on meetings in September, November, February and April. We will receive \$8/member in February from membership dues. All our members are on DCO except for 1. Al, Tammy and Valeska (backup) are signing on the bank account. Two of three signatures are required.

Secretarial Report: Colleen handed out copies of the PEN which were received by mail. Remaining copies will be available for members at our meeting in September. A minor change was made to the June minutes to reflect 'Western Communities' as the name of our branch.

Report from the Chair:

We will send a full contingent of board members to the AGM to be held at Tsawwassen on October 18-19.

Al announced that Sharon Stewart has stepped down from the Executive. Colleen will take over as Communication Director in addition to the Secretarial role. Colleen will learn from Josie how to maintain the web page.

Al is working with the Provincial Communication Committee on a press release for September regarding the 75th anniversary of the BCGREA and the formation of a new branch. The last paragraph of the communique will be reserved for the individual branches to include something specific to their branch. This press release could be sent to a local paper such as the 'Goldstream Gazette'.

We will send out an e-Blast to all our members by August 15th to let them know that our web page is live and when our meetings will be held. Colleen will prepare the email and have Josie send it out through Campaigner. A draft will be sent to the board members for approval.

The R& R committee will have a merchandising web page for branches to order BCGREA branded items. Tammy volunteered to be the monitor for our branch. The monitor will place orders and ensure payment. A note will be sent out to branch executives shortly to explain the process.

Al is looking into locations to hold our November meeting as the Gilbert Cade Hall has only 29 chairs. He has looked at the Gordon United Church on Goldstream and plans to visit the Metchosin Hall (rental is \$20/hour, capacity 180 people, lots of parking, and a kitchen). Helen suggested checking the Colwood Heritage Church and the Anglican Church on Sooke Road. Al wondered where the majority of our members reside. Valeska will look at the list of members and determine the breakdown by area.

September Meeting Format:

This will be an information gathering session. Members will be asked to share their ideas on what they would like to see from the branch. Tammy will prepare flip charts and supply markers. We discussed a number of possible themes: speakers, Christmas & summer activities, what do you not want, and what would you like to focus on. October 25th was earmarked for an outing. One flipchart will list four possible outings and ask members to vote. Tammy talked to the CRD about their parks and trails. For \$70, they will provide a guide and talk for 1 hour at any of their parks.

Door prize to include a BCGREA insulated bag with a bottle of wine.

Agenda will be sent out with the e-Blast. Agenda to include: a territorial acknowledgement; minute of silence; brief membership and financial updates; a synopsis of how the branch came about; plans for meetings - more informal and less frequent; September meeting will be a brainstorming session for questions, comments and feedback; meetings will follow COVID protocols and unvaccinated members must wear masks; members are encouraged to consider running for the Executive next Spring.

Refreshments by donation: Colleen will bring cookies and Valeska offered to make Nanaimo bars. Tammy will purchase tea, coffee and filters.

Meeting scheduled from 1 to 3 pm. Set-up at 12 pm.

Our next executive meeting will be November 1st, 2022 from 1 – 3 pm at Colleen & Al's house

Meeting adjourned at 2:21 pm.